

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Andropogon hallii Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Sand Bluestem Colorado Plateau Herbaceous Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N.)
FORMATION	Tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.d.)
ALLIANCE	<i>Andropogon hallii</i> Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL Low Confidence, Newly described at Sunset Crater and Wupatki NM.
No additional global description data available.

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Sand Bluestem / Herbaceous Vegetation occurs on cinder cones and on flat areas within Sunset Crater Volcano NM and in the environs. This association occurs around the base of and on Sunset Crater. Within the environs it occurs in only small patches in the project environs.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Only two relevés were sampled within the Sand Bluestem / Herbaceous Vegetation, both on Sunset Crater. The elevation ranged from 2,300-2,250m. This association occurred on steep slopes (35 and 40%) in cinder gravel.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Andropogon hallii</i>

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

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Eriogonum corymbosum, *Monardella odoratissima*, *Pinus ponderosa*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Two relevés were sampled within this association and had a total vegetation cover of 16 and 43%. The tree layer was sparse (0-4%) the shrub layer was also sparse (0.5%) and the herbaceous layer (12-40%). The total species richness consisted of 12 and 13 species.

Occasional *Pinus ponderosa* and *Eriogonum corymbosum* were found in the sparse tree and shrub layers. The herbaceous cover was dominated by *Andropogon hallii* (10-40%).

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE Cegl002785

MAP CLASSES

Sand Bluestem Herbaceous Vegetation was mapped as map code 7.

Sand Bluestem Herbaceous Vegetation was mapped as one of the dominant vegetation types on Sunset Crater Volcano NM and in a small patch in the western half of the project boundary. In Sunset Crater Volcano NM 32 hectares were mapped within 10 polygons; in the park environs only 1 hectare within 2 polygons was mapped.